



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

October 8, 2010

Fellow First Responders, EMT's and Paramedics

Re: Notification of Breach of Security of Personal Information

Dear Sir/Madam,

On September, 17, 2010, Bureau of EMS personnel discovered that a breach of the database of certified EMTs and First Responders (the "Portal") had occurred. Because instructors and other authorized persons throughout the state utilize it, the Portal is internet accessible. Although access to the Portal is password-protected, a "hacker" was able to obtain unauthorized access and post a message on the system. Although the hacker's intent is not known, his unauthorized entry into the Portal gave him access to your name and personal information, including your social security number. Whether the hacker actually viewed or copied your personal information cannot be determined.

DHH has notified both the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's office and the Louisiana Attorney General's office of the breach, and will actively cooperate with those agencies in their investigations. Additionally, DHH has already taken steps to help ensure that such a breach does not occur again, including strengthened password requirements and other new security measures designed to prevent unauthorized access.

The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") recommends that consumers whose personal information may have been compromised take steps to detect or prevent its misuse. You may review the FTC's guidance at the following website:
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/index.html>